MILITARY RESEARCH: UNITED STATES EXPANSION (1815-1850)

Exploring the military strategies of early America

Albuquerque Genealogical Society – Military Research Special Interest Group

AGENDA ITEMS

- Historical Context of U.S. Expansion
- Key Military Campaigns and Conflicts
- Advancements in Military Strategy and Technology
- Impact on Indigenous Populations
- Political and Social Implications
- Genealogical Resources
- Conclusion

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF U.S. EXPANSION

POST-WAR OF 1812 ERA

National Pride

The post-war period saw a surge in national pride as the U.S. emerged more unified and confident in its identity.

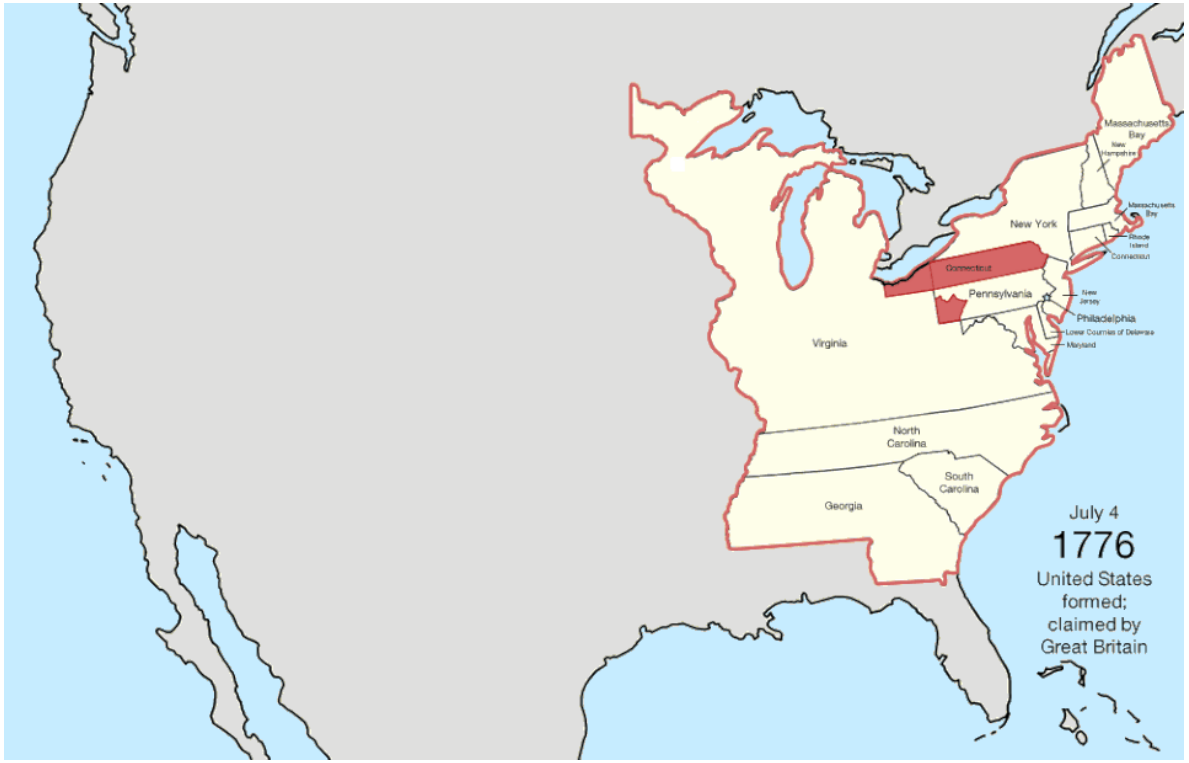
Territorial Growth

The U.S. aimed to recover lost territories and expand its borders, leading to new territories being explored and claimed.

Interest in Westward Expansion

Increased interest in westward expansion drove Americans to explore and settle lands beyond the established territories.

IMPACT OF WESTWARD EXPANSION



Economic Growth

Westward expansion contributed significantly to the growth of the U.S. economy by opening new territories for agriculture and industry.

Establishment of New States

The movement westward led to the establishment of new states, which shaped the political landscape of the United States.

Indigenous Conflicts

Westward expansion resulted in significant conflicts and challenges for Indigenous populations, often leading to displacement and loss of land.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_the_United_States

WESTWARD EXPANSION

ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS

The "Era of Good Feelings," spanning roughly from 1815 to 1825, is characterized by a strong sense of national unity and patriotism following the War of 1812. This period saw the decline of the Federalist Party, leading to a largely one-party political landscape dominated by the Democratic-Republican Party. President James Monroe's presidency, marked by a focus on national unity and economic development, further solidified the era's optimistic tone.

U.S. territorial extent in 1820

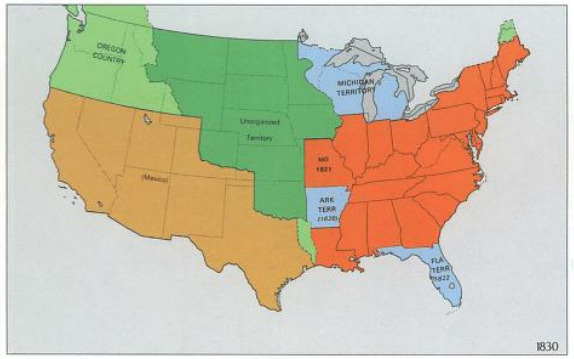
•1820 – Massachusetts divided in two with the admission of Maine as a state.
•1820 – U.S. presidential election, 1820: James Monroe reelected president unopposed, Daniel D. Tompkins reelected vice president.
•March 4, 1821 – President Monroe and Vice President Tompkins begin their second terms
•1821 – Missouri becomes a state
•1821 – Florida becomes a U.S. territory; the 1819 Adams–Onís Treaty goes into effect
•1823 – Monroe Doctrine proclaimed
•1824 – *Gibbons v. Ogden* (22 US 1 1824) affirms federal over state authority in interstate commerce. Gibbons' business partner is Cornelius Vanderbilt.
•1824 – U.S. presidential election, 1824: Presidential results inconclusive. John C. Calhoun elected vice president.
•1825 – John Quincy Adams elected president by the House of Representatives;

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

Presidency of John Quincy Adams

•March 4, 1825 – Adams becomes the sixth president; Calhoun becomes the seventh vice president
•1825 – Erie Canal is finally completed
•1826 – Former presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams die on the same day, which happens to be on the fiftieth anniversary of the approval of the Declaration of independence.
•1828 – U.S. presidential election, 1828: Andrew Jackson elected president; John C. Calhoun reelected vice president
•December 22, 1828 - First Lady-designate Rachel Jackson dies of a heart attack.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

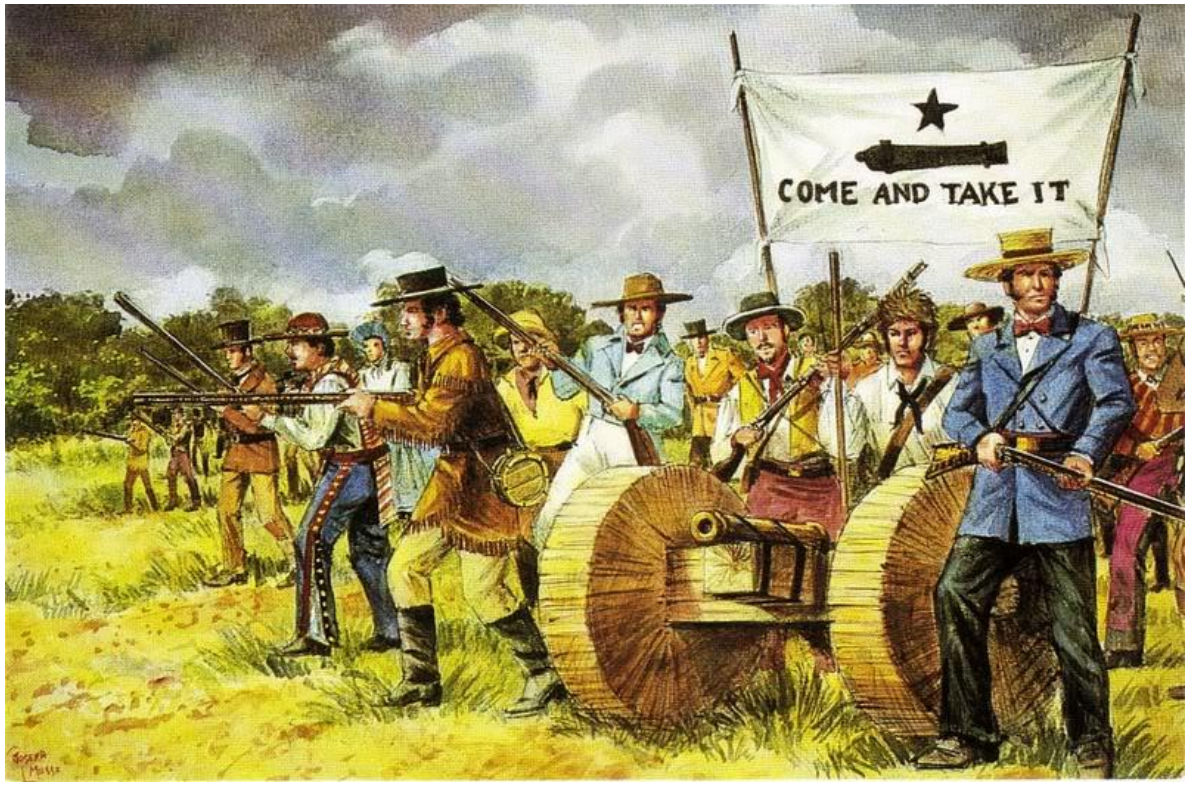


Presidency of Andrew Jackson

•March 4, 1829 – Jackson becomes the seventh president; Vice President Calhoun begins second term

- Expanded suffrage – The Jacksonians believed that voting rights should be extended to all white men.
- Manifest destiny – This was the belief that white Americans had a destiny to settle the American West and to expand control from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific and that the West should be settled by yeoman farmers.
- Patronage – Also known as the spoils system, patronage was the policy of placing political supporters into appointed offices.
- Strict constructionism – Like the Jeffersonians who strongly believed in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, Jacksonians initially favored a federal government of limited powers.
- *Laissez-faire* – Complementing a strict construction of the Constitution, the Jacksonians generally favored a hands-off approach to the economy as opposed to the Whig program sponsoring modernization, railroads, banking and economic growth.[11][12]
- Opposition to banking – In particular, the Jacksonians opposed government-granted monopolies to banks, especially the national bank, a central bank known as the Second Bank of the United States.

TEXAS INDEPENDANCE - 1836



Conflict for Independence

The Texas Revolution was a significant conflict that marked Texas's fight for independence from Mexican rule.

Settlers' Aspirations

The revolution was fueled by American settlers' desire for land and greater autonomy in Texas.

Joining the United States

The outcome of the Texas Revolution eventually paved the way for Texas to join the United States.

Presidency of Martin Van Buren

•March 4, 1837 – Van Buren becomes the eighth president; Johnson becomes the ninth vice president.
•1837 – U.S. recognizes the Republic of Texas
•1837 – *Caroline* affair (Involving the US, UK, and Canada)
•1837 – Michigan becomes a state
•1837 – Oberlin College begins enrolling female students, becoming first coeducational college in the U.S.
•1837 – Panic of 1837
•1837 – *Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge* reverses *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*: property rights can be overridden by public eyed.
•1838 – Forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from the southeastern U.S. leads to over 4,000 deaths in the Trail of Tears.
•1838 – Aroostook War (Involving Maine & New Brunswick Borders)
•1839 – *Amistad* case

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

Presidency of William Henry Harrison

•March 4, 1841 – Harrison becomes the ninth president; Tyler becomes the tenth vice president.
•March 6, 1841 – Supreme Court finds for Amistad defendants, freeing them.
•April 4, 1841 – President Harrison dies after only a month in office.

Presidency of John Tyler

•April 4, 1841 – Vice President Tyler becomes the tenth president
•September 11, 1841 – Tyler's cabinet resigns en masse. Only Daniel Webster remains.
•1842 – Webster–Ashburton Treaty (See Aroostook War, Previous Slide)
•1842 – The Dorr Rebellion: A civil war in Rhode Island
•July 10, 1842 - January, 1843 – Attempted impeachment of President Tyler.
•1843 – Emigrants begin their journey along the Oregon Trail.
•December, 1844 – Oregon passes its Black Exclusion Law.
•June 27, 1844 – Mormon leader, Joseph Smith Jr. assassinated.
•1844 – U.S. presidential election, 1844, James K. Polk is elected president; George M. Dallas is elected vice president.
•1845 – Texas annexation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

Conflict Overview

The Mexican-American War lasted from 1846 to 1848 and was a crucial event in U.S. history.

Territorial Expansion

The conflict resulted in the U.S. acquiring vast territories, including California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Manifest Destiny

The war was driven by the ideology of Manifest Destiny, promoting westward expansion across North America.

Presidency of James K. Polk

•March 4, 1845 – Polk becomes the 11th president; Dallas becomes the 11th vice president.
•1845 – Florida and Texas become states
•1846 – Dred Scott sues for his freedom
•1846 – The Mexican–American War begins
•1846 – Bear Flag revolt in Alta California, which is momentarily independent.
•1846 – Iowa becomes a state
•1846 – Wilmot Proviso (attempt to ban slavery in acquired Mexican Territory)
•1846 – The United States and Great Britain sign the Oregon Treaty
•1847 – Abraham Lincoln introduces himself to the world by his introduction of the Spot Resolutions in the House.
•1847 – Battle of Buena Vista (General Zachary Taylor)
•1847 – Battle of Veracruz (General Winfield Scott)
•1848 – The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican–American War
•1848 – Wisconsin becomes a state
•1848 – Seneca Falls Convention (First Women's Suffrage Convention)
•1848 – U.S. presidential election, 1848; Zachary Taylor is elected president; Millard Fillmore is elected vice president

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

Presidency of Zachary Taylor

•March 4, 1849 – Taylor becomes the 12th president; Fillmore becomes the 12th vice president
•1849 – California Gold Rush begins
•1850 – Clayton–Bulwer Treaty
•1850 – President Taylor threatens to veto Compromise of 1850 even if it means Civil War.
•June 3–11 –The secessionist Nashville Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Presidency of Millard Fillmore

•July 9, 1850 – President Taylor dies, Vice President Fillmore becomes the 13th president
•September 9–20, 1850 – The Compromise of 1850, including the notorious Fugitive Slave Act passed
•September 9, 1850 – California becomes a state
•November 1850 – Nashville Convention reconvenes; Satisfied with the Compromise, it declares the Union intact-for the moment.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_history_of_the_United_States_(1820%E2%80%931859)

ADVANCEMENTS IN MILITARY STRATEGY AND TECHNOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY TACTICS

Evolution of Tactics

Military tactics have continuously evolved to meet the demands imposed by various forms of warfare, including guerrilla tactics.

Guerrilla Warfare Challenges

The U.S. military faced unique challenges presented by guerrilla warfare, requiring innovative tactics and strategies.

Fighting Indigenous Groups

Military strategies were adapted to navigate the complexities of conflicts with Indigenous groups, influencing the overall conduct of war.

ADVANCEMENTS IN WEAPONRY

Rifled Muskets

Rifled muskets were a significant advancement in weaponry, improving accuracy and range during battles. This technology transformed infantry tactics.

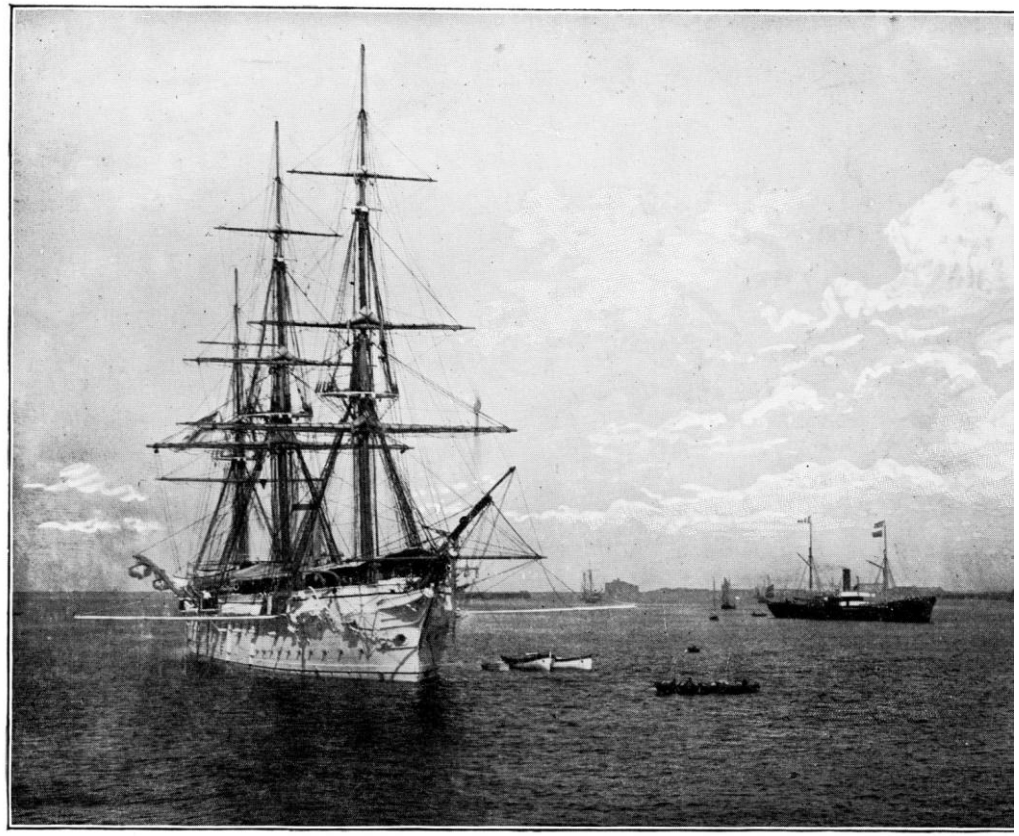
Artillery Developments

Advancements in artillery technology led to more powerful and accurate cannons, impacting the outcome of many conflicts. Artillery played a crucial role in warfare.

Impact on Battle Dynamics

The introduction of advanced weaponry changed battle dynamics, increasing the lethality of conflicts and requiring new military strategies.

INFLUENCE OF NAVAL POWER



Support for U.S. Expansion

Naval power was vital in supporting the expansion efforts of the United States throughout its history.

Control of Waterways

The control of waterways allowed for efficient troop movements and supply lines crucial for military operations.

Mexican-American War

During the Mexican-American War, naval power was essential in ensuring successful military engagements and logistics.

Military Academies: 1820...1850

Army--West Point, New York, founded 1802:
https://www.usma.edu/wphistory/SitePages/Home.aspx
Curriculum revamped by Superintendent Colonel Sylvanus Thayer (1817-1833) with emphasis on civil engineering along with military studies and discipline.

Navy—Annapolis, Maryland, founded 1845:
https://www.usna.edu/USNAHistory/
Through the efforts of the Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, the Naval School was established without Congressional funding, at a 10-acre Army post named Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland, on October 10, 1845, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The curriculum included mathematics and navigation, gunnery and steam, chemistry, English, natural philosophy, and French. (Source: US Naval Academy)

IMPACT ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

FORCED RELOCATIONS AND TREATIES

Loss of Ancestral Lands

Many Indigenous peoples faced forced removal from their ancestral lands, leading to significant impacts on their communities.

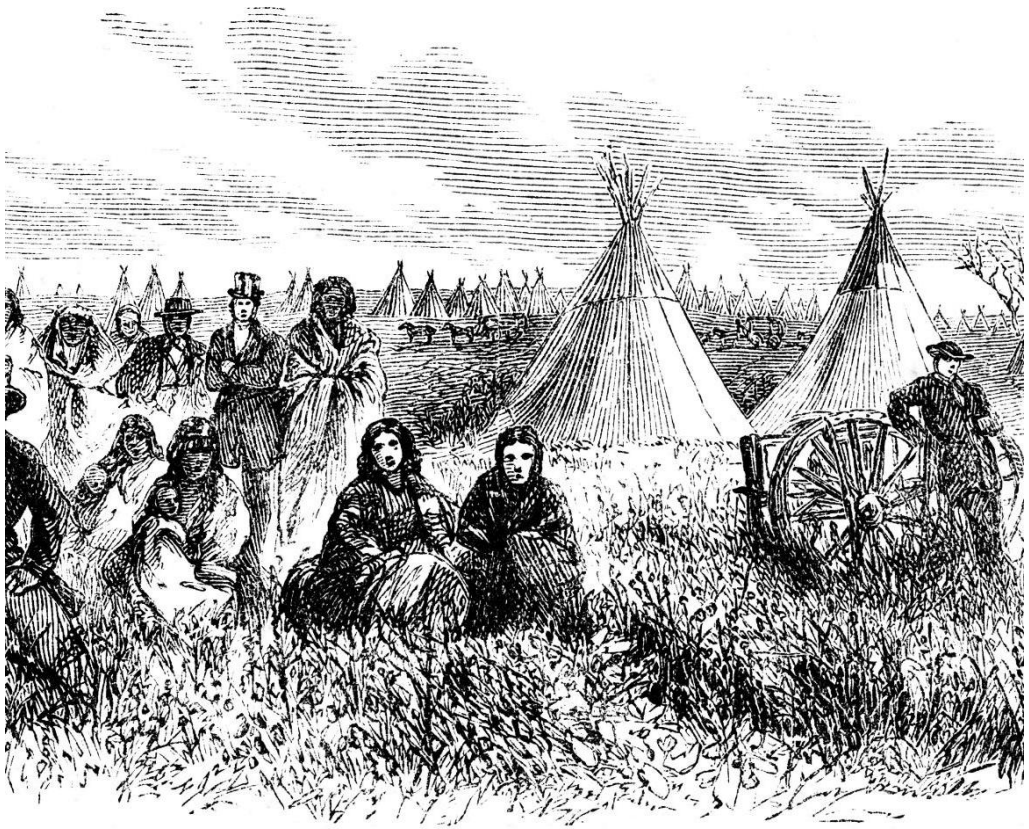
Unhonored Treaties

Treaties were often signed under duress or not honored, further exacerbating the loss and suffering of Indigenous tribes.

Cultural Impact

The forced relocations resulted in a significant loss of culture, traditions, and identity for many tribes.

CONFLICTS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES



Westward Expansion

The westward expansion of settlers led to increased tensions and conflicts with Native American tribes over land and resources.

Territorial Conflicts

Conflicts arose as settlers encroached upon Native American lands, leading to violent encounters and displacement of tribes.

Desire for Resources

The desire for natural resources fueled conflicts, as settlers sought land for farming and mining, disregarding indigenous rights.

SEMINOLE WARS

Conflicts Overview

The Seminole Wars were a series of conflicts that arose from the U.S. government's attempts to control the Seminole tribe in Florida.

Indigenous Struggles

These wars exemplified the broader struggle of Indigenous populations against U.S. territorial expansion and control.

Impact on U.S. Policy

The Seminole Wars influenced U.S. policies towards Indigenous populations and territorial expansion efforts in the 19th century.

The **Trail of Tears** was the forced displacement of about 60,000 people of the "Five Tribes" between 1830 and 1850, and the additional thousands of Native Americans and their black slaves[3] within that were ethnically cleansed by the United States government.[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trail_of_Tears

LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Cultural Disruption

U.S. expansion led to significant cultural disruption among Indigenous communities, affecting traditions, languages, and social structures.

Population Decline

Indigenous populations faced sharp declines due to disease, displacement, and conflict, which have lasting impacts today.

Struggles for Rights

Indigenous communities continue to fight for rights and recognition, advocating for sovereignty, land, and cultural preservation.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

EXPANSION OF U.S. TERRITORY

Acquisition of Vast Lands

The territorial expansion led to the acquisition of vast lands across North America, significantly increasing the size of the nation.

Establishment of New States

As territories expanded, new states were established, contributing to the growth of the United States and its governance.

Economic Growth

The expansion fueled economic growth by opening new markets and encouraging settlement and development in newly acquired areas.

Spread of American Ideals

Territorial expansion facilitated the spread of American ideals and culture, influencing the nation’s identity and values.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Discovery of Resources

The discovery of new resources fueled economic expansion and became a catalyst for growth in various industries.

Infrastructure Development

Development of infrastructure, such as roads and railways, was vital for supporting economic activities and connecting markets.

Emergence as Economic Power

These developments laid the groundwork for the United States to emerge as a significant economic power on the global stage.

SHIFTS IN POLITICAL POWER AND POLICY

Debates Over Slavery

The debates over slavery were central to political discussions, influencing policies and creating divisions within the nation.

Balance of Power

The balance of power between slave and free states was a contentious issue that shaped the legislative landscape of the era.

Political Landscape Before Civil War

The shifting dynamics of political power significantly influenced the events leading up to the Civil War, creating a volatile environment.

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

- National Archives – Dawes Rolls https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/tutorial/intro.html
- Ancestry.com Card Catalog – Search "Indigenous Americans"
- https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/?keyword=Indigenous%20Americans&location=2_1652393
- Cyndi's List – Search "Indigenous People"
- https://www.cyndislist.com/

CYNDI'S LIST – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SAMPLE SEARCH

About 33 results (0.09 seconds)

Sort by: **Relevance**

Native American - Specific Tribal or Nation Resources - Cyndi's List
www.cyndislist.com › native-american › specific
Transcribed roster of Oneida Indians who fought in War of 1812. First Nations Histories · FLGenWeb Project - **Indigenous People** of Florida · Gateway to the ...

Native American - General Resources - Cyndi's List
www.cyndislist.com › native-american › general
Classification of **Indigenous peoples** of the Americas (Wikipedia) ... Genealogy of Quebec's Native People and Francophone Metis · Index of Native American ...

Libraries, Archives & Museums - Native American - Cyndi's List
www.cyndislist.com › native-american › libraries
Dedicated to preserving and advancing the language, history, culture, and lifeways of **indigenous peoples**. ... **Indigenous people** in the Greater Southwest. The ...

Canada - People: Ethnicities, Nations, and Families - Cyndi's List
www.cyndislist.com › canada › people
Guide to Canada **First Nations** ancestry, family history and genealogy: birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, and other agency records.

United States - Wisconsin - People: Ethnicities, Nations, and Families
www.cyndislist.com › people
Detailed info on Arms and Shivers families. FamilySearch Wiki - **Indigenous Peoples** of Wisconsin · French in Wisconsin. Historical material on French settlement ...

Australia - People: Ethnicities, Nations, and Families - Cyndi's List
www.cyndislist.com › australia › people
This site is being developed to encourage those with **Aboriginal** and Torres Strait Islander ancestry to research their family history, based on contemporaneous ...

Family Search Wiki

United States Indigenous Peoples

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United States → **United States Indigenous Peoples**

Native American Online Genealogy Records

Cheyennes: Henry Roman Nose, Yellow Bear, and Lame Man.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Indigenous_Peoples

Texas Archives

https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/genfirst

Mexican Archives

Mexico Archives and Libraries

In other languages: Español

Mexico ➡ **Archives and Libraries**

- **Archives** collect and preserve **original documents** of organizations such as churches or governments. **Libraries** generally collect **published sources** such as books, maps, and microfilm.
- **If you plan to visit a repository, contact them** and ask for information about their collection, hours, services, and fees. Ask if they require you to have a reader's ticket (a paper indicating you are a responsible researcher) to view the records, and ask how to obtain one.
- Although the records you need may be in an archive or library, the **FamilySearch Library** may have microfilmed and digitized copies of them.

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3 Other Archives
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5 Museums
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https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Mexico_Archives_and_Libraries

New Mexico Center and Archives

https://www.srca.nm.gov/

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
General Land Office Records
Search Documents
Reference Center
Support
Pathfinder
The Official Federal Land Records Site
Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management(BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site. We provide live access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present. We also have images of survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records. Due to organization of documents in the GLO collection, this site does not currently contain every Federal title record issued for the Public Land States.
Subscribe to General Land Office Record of the Week here.
UNITED STATES GENERAL LAND OFFICE

https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx

Other Military Record Resources

National Archives
https://www.archives.gov/veterans

Fold3 (Library Edition and Ancestry Subscription)
https://Fold3.com

Family Search Resource List
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Records

Library of Congress – Locating Military Records
https://guides.loc.gov/locating-united-states-military-service-records-and-unit-records/military-service-records

Cyndi's List – US Military
https://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/

State Archives List (National Archives)
https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html

CONCLUSION

Military Campaigns

The U.S. expansion involved significant military campaigns that shaped the nation's borders and influenced its future.

Strategic Advancements

This era saw advancements in military strategy and technology that changed the face of warfare in America.

Impact on Indigenous Populations

The expansion greatly affected Indigenous populations, leading to displacement and cultural changes across the continent.